

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

FY15 Wildlife Land

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: FY15 Wildlife Land		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:		Telephone:
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
NUMBER OF PRIORITY HABITATS RESTORED OR IMPROVED (Habitats must meet program requirements for priority habitats per the EQIP-Wildlife handbook to receive these points. Priority habitats are: Early Successional, Grassland, Wetlands/SWA, Riparian/Stream, Forest Interior) (choose 1 answer)	
1. 1 of the priority habitats will be restored or improved.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. 2 of the priority habitats will be restored or improved.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. 3 of the priority habitats will be restored or improved.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. 4 or more of the priority habitats will be restored or improved.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
PROJECT SIZE (choose 1 answer)	
5. SIZE - Is the project between 1 and 4.99 acres?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. SIZE - Is the project between 5 and 9.99 acres?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. SIZE - Is the project between 10 and 29.99 acres?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. SIZE - Is the project 30 acres or larger?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
TARGETED ECOLOGICAL AREAS	
9. Will the project be implemented within a Maryland DNR Targeted Ecological Area or the Chesapeake Bay or Coastal Bays Critical Areas?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
HABITAT SUITABILITY INDEX (HSI) FOR THE PLANNED CONDITION (HSIs are rounded to the nearest tenth) (choose 1 answer)	
10. Is the planned condition HSI less than 0.5?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
11. Is the planned condition HSI 0.5?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
12. Is the planned condition HSI 0.6?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
13. Is the planned condition HSI 0.7?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
14. Is the planned condition HSI 0.8?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
15. Is the planned condition HSI 0.9?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
16. Is the planned condition HIS 1.0?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
HABITAT SUITABILITY INDEX (HSI) IMPROVEMENT (HSIs are rounded to the nearest tenth) (choose 1 answer)	
17. Is the HSI increased by 0.1 - 0.299 points?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
18. HSI - Is the HSI increased by 0.3-0.499 points?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
19. HSI - Is the HSI increased by 0.5-0.699 points? F	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
20. HSI - Is the HSI increased by 0.7-0.899 points?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

21. HSI - Is the HSI increased by 0.9-1.0 points?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
VEGETATIVE DIVERSITY (choose 1 answer)	
22. Does the planned vegetation consist of a mixture with less than 5 native species? F	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
23. Does the planned vegetation consist of a mixture of 5 to 9 native species?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
24. Does the planned vegetation consist of a mixture of 10 or more native species?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
NATIVE VEGETATION	
25. Does the planned vegetation consist entirely of native species?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
WILDLIFE ACCESS (choose 1 answer)	
26. Is the proposed project contiguous with a protected wildlife habitat area which is likely to remain for at least the term of the WHIP contract? A protected wildlife habitat area includes (but is not limited to) a Federal Wildlife Refuge, State Forest or Park in a natural condition, tidal or nontidal wetland, land enrolled in WRP, or land enrolled in CRP with native cover and a contract that will continue at least as long as the WHIP contract.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
27. Is the proposed project contiguous with a natural area, or a perennial or non-channelized intermittent watercourse. Natural areas include, but are not limited to woodland, shrub/scrub areas, grasslands, and marshes?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
INCREASE IN FUNCTIONS (choose all that apply)	
28. Will the project result in the conversion of cropland, hayland or pasture to primarily wildlife use?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
29. Will the project result in improved passage for aquatic organisms?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
30. Will the project be implemented to improve existing wildlife habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
31. Will the project result in a natural vegetated buffer adjacent to streams, rivers, shorelines, or lakes, where a natural buffer does not currently exist?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
NUMBER OF PRIORITY HABITATS RESTORED OR IMPROVED (Habitats must meet program requirements for priority habitats per the EQIP-Wildlife handbook to receive these points. Priority habitats are: Early Successional, Grassland, Wetlands/SWA, Riparian/Stream, Forest Interior) (choose 1 answer)	
1. In the last 3 years, has the applicant completed all previous Farm Bill contracts without any terminations or cancellations; or not had any contracts at all?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Has the applicant had a previous Farm Bill contract termination within the last three years?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
PROJECT SIZE (choose 1 answer)	
3. Does the applicant have a current (less than 10 years old) conservation plan or forest stewardship plan on file that includes practices planned to develop the types of wildlife habitat included in the application?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Has the applicant implemented or applied any wildlife habitat practices that are contained in their current conservation plan or forest stewardship plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Is the property on which the plan will be implemented protected by a conservation easement in perpetuity that restricts development rights?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices
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Ranking Score

Efficiency:
Local Issues:
State Issues:
National Issues:
Final Ranking Score:

This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

NRCS Representative: Signature Date:	Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy: Signature Date:
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